

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 13

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION designating September 26, 2011, as
"Mesothelioma Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, mesothelioma is a rare but deadly form of cancer that involves the mesothelium, or the cells that line an organ, usually the lungs, abdominal organs, and heart; and

WHEREAS, between 2,500 and 3,000 new cases of mesothelioma are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, the main cause of mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos, which was heavily used in manufacturing, industry, and in the construction of virtually all office buildings, public schools, and homes built before 1975; and

WHEREAS, most of those suffering from mesothelioma held jobs where they were repeatedly exposed to asbestos; thirty percent of all mesothelioma victims worked on U.S. Navy ships or shipyards, where asbestos was frequently used; and

WHEREAS, although most people with mesothelioma were repeatedly exposed to asbestos, exposure to asbestos for as little as one month can result in a person developing the disease thirty years later; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that many firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers exposed to asbestos-contaminated dust at Ground Zero following the 9-11 attacks could be at great risk for contracting mesothelioma in the future; and

WHEREAS, because of occupational, Navy-service related, household, or even incidental exposures, and the very long latency of the disease, tens of millions of Americans are potentially at risk for developing mesothelioma; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure or standard treatment for mesothelioma, and the expected survival time of those diagnosed with the disease ranges from four to fourteen months; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation was formed to eradicate the life-ending and vicious effects of mesothelioma, and early progress in developing effective treatments for the disease is now being made; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Mesothelioma Awareness Day will help raise public awareness of the disease and of the need to develop effective treatments for it; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate September 26, 2011, as "Mesothelioma Day" in Tennessee in order to promote increased public awareness about Mesothelioma, its causes and symptoms, and the need for effective treatments for the disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.